

4 a supportive porous under-structure; and
6 a top layer consisting of a crosslinked polyamide thin film which is adhered
8 to the upper surface of the porous support structure, said top layer having been
10 contacted with a solution of a C₁-C₆ alkyl, alkenyl, haloalkyl, haloalkenyl, hydroxy or
aryl sulfonic or disulfonic acid compound,
whereby said membrane has a water flux of at least about 15 gfd and a
rejection of at least 20 percent when tested on a 0.05 percent aqueous sodium
chloride at 75 psi and 25°C.

2 21. A composite membrane as in Claim 15 wherein said organic sulfonic or
4 disulfonic acid compound comprises a sulfoacetic, sulfosuccinic, methanesulfonic,
ethanedisulfonic, hydroxybutane sulfonic, benzenedisulfonic, hydroxybenzene
sulfonic, hydroxybutane sulfonic, dihydroxy benzene sulfonic or dihydroxy benzene
disulfonic or mixtures thereof.

2 23. A composite membrane as in Claim 1 wherein said organic sulfonic acid
compound comprises methanesulfonic acid, trifluoromethanesulfonic acid or a
mixture thereof.

REMARKS

Applicant's attorney hereby acknowledges with appreciation the Examiner's cooperation and courtesy during two telephone interviews on November 4, 2002, regarding clarification of the non-final nature of the Office Action of October 23, 2002. The Examiner's Interview Summary of November 14, 2002, correctly summarizes the two telephone interviews and their result.

In the subject Office Action the Examiner rejected Claims 15-20, 22 and 25-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over the newly Chau et al. reference. He also repeated and discussed his rejection of Claims 15-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the combination of Cadotte et al. (USP 4,765,897) in view of Koo et al. Applicant respectfully submits that the